

SPECIAL CABLES.

FROM THE HERALD'S LONDON CORRESPONDENTS.

THE TRANSVAAL RAID.

THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY.

LONDON, March 30.

The committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the origin and circumstances of the invasion into the South African Republic of an armed force, and into the administration of the British South Africa Company, sat again to-day.

Colonel Francis Rhodes, D.S.O. (brother of Mr. Cecil Rhodes), gave evidence. He estimated that the raid cost £250,000.

March 31.

Mr. Francis James Norton, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary and Receiver-General of Bechuanaland, was examined. He admitted that he offered to help Dr. Jameson in his expedition, but that he did not inform Lord Rosebery of the offer he made.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEAGUE.

PATRIOTIC SPEECHES.

LONDON, March 30.

A meeting of the South African League was held at Cape Town yesterday, when speeches strongly patriotic in tone were delivered. Most of the speakers delivered the evidence given by Mr. W. P. Schreiner, late Attorney-General of Cape Colony, before the Parliamentary committee of inquiry.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S.

SIMULTANEOUS REJOICINGS THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE.

LONDON, March 30.

In connection with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations on the 22nd June, to mark the completion of the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign, the Government has been urged to make such arrangements as will enable her Majesty the Queen to personally give the signal for the beginning of the "Hymn of Praise" on the occasion of the thanksgiving service at St. Paul's Cathedral.

It is also suggested that the Government should order rejoicings to be held simultaneously on the 22nd June throughout the British Empire.

The cable companies, who have been consulted in the matter, declare that the latter suggestion is a feasible one.

BRITISH POLITICS.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

LONDON, March 31.

The Education Bill, which was passed by the House of Commons, has been read a second time in the House of Lords by a majority of 94.

In the course of the debate Dr. Moorehouse, Bishop of Manchester, expressed the opinion that the subsidies to the voluntary schools ought to be granted relief equivalent to the Board school rates.

THE AMERICAN TARIFF.

THE WOOLLEN DUTIES.

LONDON, March 31.

The proprietors of the various woollen mills in Massachusetts, United States, have entered a strong protest against the duties proposed to be levied under the Dingley Bill as excessive.

THE PANAMA CANAL FRAUDS.

ARREST OF A DEPUTY.

LONDON, March 30.

The French police have arrested M. Bayer, one of the members of the Chamber of Deputies accused by Mr. Antonin in his confession of having been concerned in the Panama Canal frauds. Many documents were also seized.

THE BATHURST SYNOD.

BATHURST, Wednesday.

The Anglican Synod to-day was resolved to stand a day for special prayer for the great calamity which has befallen the people of the Cape Colony, and to a letter to the effect that the Synod was deeply grieved by the news of the disaster, and that it was praying for the recovery of the people.

THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

PAYMENT OF INTEREST IN FULL.

LONDON, March 31.

The Government of the Argentine Republic has decided to resume the payment of interest in full to the foreign bondholders.

LONDON WOOL SALES.

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At the wool sales this evening only a poor selection was offered, and sales dragged. Prices were unchanged.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

EXECUTION IN PRISONS.

PERTH, Tuesday.

James Khan, the Afghan murderer, was executed this morning in Fremantle gaol. He met his fate with perfect composure, and death was instantaneous.

PENRITH LAND BOARD.

PENRITH, Wednesday.

The local land board (Messrs. Wilson and Eager) held an inquiry here to-day with reference to a claim for compensation made by the Penrith and District Land Drainage Board, which was a claim for the cost of the drainage works done by the board in the Penrith district.

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EUROPEAN SITUATION.

THE CRETAN TROUBLE.

BRITISH TROOPS ORDERED TO CRETE.

LONDON, March 30.

Six hundred men of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers have been ordered from Malta to Crete.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons this evening Mr. G. N. Curzon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Foreign Office, stated that the Admiralty of the allied fleets were prepared to re-visit the island in Crete where it was most required.

The Austrian Government has prohibited the export of 7,000,000 cartridges to Greece.

BRITISH FLEET AT THE CAPE.

GETTING READY FOR SEA.

LONDON, March 30.

The British fleet at the Cape of Good Hope has been ordered to get ready for sea.

Viscount Alington, C.B., Commander-in-Chief on the African station, who was recently commanding the operations in the Niger Coast Protectorate against the Sultan of Nupe, returns to the Cape immediately.

AUTONOMY FOR CRETE.

APPEAL TO THE RULES OF EUROPE.

LONDON, March 31.

The Cretan Central Committee has appealed to the rules of Europe requesting them not to starve 300,000 Christians into accepting autonomy.

GREEKS SHELLED BY THE FOREIGN WARSHIPS.

LONDON, March 31.

The Greek forces attacked Port Izmid, dominating Suda, on the northern coast of the island.

ADDITIONAL TROOPS.

LONDON, March 31.

Each of the Powers is sending an additional 600 troops to Crete.

THE BLOCKADE OF CRETE.

LONDON, March 31.

The blockade of Crete by the vessels of the Powers does not prevent the revictualing of Crete, which is being largely carried on.

A EUROPEAN GOVERNOR FOR CRETE.

LONDON, March 31.

In the House of Commons last night Mr. G. N. Curzon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Foreign Office, stated that Great Britain was supporting the proposal of the powers for the appointment of a Governor in Crete, and the withdrawal of the Turkish troops as the admirals may direct. The other Powers were considering the proposal.

GERMAN OFFICERS JOINING THE TURKS.

LONDON, March 31.

Numerous German military officers are joining the Turkish forces under the command of General Elbeh Pasha.

VICTORIA.

MEMORIAL OF THE QUEEN'S REIGN.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

The proprietors of the *Argus* and *Advertiser* have given a donation of 1000 guineas to the fund opened for the erection in Victoria of a memorial to the Queen's reign.

SHOOTING WITH INTENT.

LONDON, March 31.

At the City Court to-day a fashionably-dressed young man, a recent arrival from New York, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for shooting with intent to murder a woman named Elizabeth Barnes in a house in Lombard-street. The police magistrate said the accused had been acting for the first time, and did not intend to shoot the woman, but the jury found him guilty of the offence.

METHUEN UNION.

LONDON, March 31.

The executive committee of the Ribblesdale Church has forwarded to the other Methodist bodies a resolution dealing with the failure of the recent Wesleyan Conference to carry the proposal for union. The resolution is to the effect that "the Ribblesdale Church cannot refrain from expressing profound regret and painful surprise that the minority at the Wesleyan Conference of 1896, which was a majority body, should have failed to carry the proposal for union, and that this failure should have been the result of the action of a minority."

UNION TRUSTEE COMPANY.

LONDON, March 31.

The annual meeting of the Union Trustee Company was held to-day. The directors in their report stated that the net earnings for the year amounted to £4100, out of which they recommended the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and a dividend of 5 per cent. on the preference shares.

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SECOND EDITION.

SILVER.

LONDON, March 31.

Bar silver is quoted to-day at 2s 4 1/2-16d, a fall of 1/16 since last quotation.

TALLOW MARKET.

LONDON, March 31.

At to-day's sale of Australian tallow 2770 casks were offered, and 2050 sold. Mutton, fine, 19s; medium, 18s. Beef, fine, 19s; medium, 17s 1/2d.

REVENUE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ADELAIDE, Wednesday.

The approximate revenue returns for the third quarter of the financial year were issued to-day. They give a total of £682,905, which brings the total for nine months up to £1,855,328. As compared with the corresponding quarter 1896, an increase of £14,000 is shown, the land and income tax being responsible for the bulk of the increase.

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THE CANTILLAS MURDER.

ADELAIDE, Wednesday.

The Cantillas murder case is being tried at the Adelaide Assizes to-day. The evidence of the witnesses is being given, and the case is expected to be concluded to-morrow.

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QUEENSLAND.

CHANGE IN THE CABINET.

BRISBANE, Wednesday.

Mr. Thynne to-day relinquished the portfolio of Postmaster-General, which has been assumed by Mr. Dickson. Mr. Thynne will devote himself solely to the administration of the Agricultural Department. It is also understood that the Department of Stock, which has been assumed by Mr. Dickson, will be transferred to the care of the Minister for Agriculture.

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BLUE MOUNTAIN, Springwood—Chalmers, and 1/2 MILLER HOUSE, W. YORK, ALLIED TOM, and 1/2 MILLER HOUSE, W. YORK.

ACTIVITIES.

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